

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A portable computer, comprising:

a portable computer housing having a top deck with an opening disposed over
a selected component;

a display coupled to the portable computer housing, the display being movable
to a closed position along the top deck; and

a component cover removably mounted over the opening, ~~the component~~
~~cover having comprising:~~

a coupling mechanism to secure a portion of the component cover

detachably to the portable computer housing; and

a force-displaceable coupling mechanism to secure a remaining portion

of the component cover detachably to the portable computer

housing;

wherein the force-displaceable coupling mechanism biases the

coupling mechanism into engagement with the housing. ~~tool-~~

~~less-actuation to an open position to permit access to the~~

~~selected component.~~

2. (original) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, further comprising a network card removably disposed beneath the component cover.

3. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 21, further comprising a real time clock battery disposed beneath the component cover.

4. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 31, further comprising a BIOS firmware hub disposed beneath the component cover.

5. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~component cover~~coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the portable computer housing proximate the opening.

6. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 5, wherein the ~~component cover~~force-displaceable coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to ~~releasably~~ hold the component cover releasably over the opening.

7. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 61, wherein the component cover is formed from a plastic material.

8. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 21, wherein the display is coupled to the portable computer housing by a hinge.

9. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 2, wherein the ~~component cover~~coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the portable computer housing proximate the opening.

10. (currently amended) The portable computer as recited in claim 9, wherein the ~~component cover~~force-displaceable coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to ~~releasable~~hold the component cover releasably over the opening.

11. (original) The portable computer as recited in claim 2, wherein the portable computer housing is a notebook computer housing.

12. (currently amended) An electronic device, comprising:

a device housing having a top deck with an opening disposed over a selected component;

a display coupled to the device housing, the display being movable to a closed position along the top deck; and

a component cover removably mounted over the opening, ~~the component cover having~~comprising:

a force-actuated coupling mechanism; and

at least one coupling mechanism cooperative with the force-actuated coupling mechanism to mount the component cover detachably to the device housing. ~~tool-less actuation to an open position to permit access to the selected component.~~

13. (original) The electronic device as recited in claim 12, further comprising a network card disposed beneath the component cover.

14. (original) The electronic device as recited in claim 13, further comprising a real time clock battery disposed beneath the component cover.

15. (currently amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 14~~13~~, further comprising a BIOS firmware hub disposed beneath the component cover.

16. (currently amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 12, wherein the ~~component cover~~at least one coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the device housing proximate the opening.

17. (currently amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 16, wherein the ~~component cover~~force-actuated coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to ~~releasable~~hold the component cover releasably over the opening.

18. (original) The electronic device as recited in claim 17, wherein the component cover is formed from a plastic material.

19. (currently amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 13~~12~~, wherein the display is coupled to the device housing by a hinge.

20. (currently amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 13, wherein the ~~component cover~~at least one coupling mechanism comprises at least one tab positioned to engage the device housing proximate the opening.

21. (currently amended) The electronic device as recited in claim 20, wherein the ~~component cover~~force-actuated coupling mechanism comprises at least one flexible catch disposed generally opposite the at least one tab to releasably hold the component cover over the opening.

22. (currently amended) A method of facilitating replacement of a modem card in a device capable of communicating over a network, comprising:

locating a modem card connector within a portable computer housing at a position between a motherboard and a top deck of the housing, the modem card connector being accessible via an opening in the top deck of the housing; and

~~forming an opening through the top deck proximate the modem card connector; and~~

~~removably connecting a~~providing a tool-less detachable quick-release cover ~~to~~for the portable computer housing to cover the opening.

23. (original) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising connecting a network card to the modem card connector.

24. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim ~~23~~22, further comprising mounting a real time clock battery beneath the quick-release cover.

25. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim ~~24~~22, further comprising placing a BIOS firmware hub beneath the quick-release cover.

26. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 22, ~~wherein removably connecting comprises~~ further comprising coupling the quick-release cover to the portable computer housing with a plurality of tabs.

27. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 22, ~~wherein removably connecting further comprises~~ comprising coupling the quick-release cover to the portable computer with a flexible catch.

28. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein ~~forming~~ locating comprises ~~forming~~ positioning the modem card connector in the opening adjacent to a computer keyboard.

29. (currently amended) A system of facilitating replacement of a modem card in a device capable of communicating over a network, comprising:

~~means for locating a modem card connector~~ located within a portable computer housing at a position between a motherboard and a top deck of the housing; and

~~means for forming an opening through the top deck proximate the modem card connector;~~ and

means for ~~removably connecting a quick-release~~ detachably coupling a cover to the portable computer housing to cover the opening, ~~the quick-release cover being tool-lessly detachable with respect to the portable computer housing.~~

30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the means for ~~removably connecting detachably coupling~~ comprises attaching the cover via at least one flexible catch.